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In the Occupational Spotlight

August marks one year that the Research and Statistics Branch of the Office of Employment and Training (OET) has been featuring an occupation on the Workforce Kentucky Web site. Many of the occupations profiled on this section of the Web site are expected to grow in future years.

Manager Carlos Cracraft explained, "These profiles allow a student or a job seeker to find information about job opportunities in Kentucky. Questions about wages, advancement opportunities, working conditions and knowledge, skills and educational requirements can be readily answered. This valuable information will enhance an individual's knowledge of the characteristics necessary to be successful in choosing an occupation."

Research and Statistics began spotlighting occupations in August 2005, with occupational therapists being the first. Since then, the site has featured such occupations as network analysts, paralegals and legal assistants, speech-language pathologists, teacher assistants, graphic designers, machinists, and pharmacists.

In August 2006 the spotlight is on computer support specialists. Individuals in this occupation provide technical assistance to computer system users by answering questions or resolving computer problems. In Kentucky projections indicate a 28 percent increase from 2002 to 2012 for this occupation compared to an increase of 23 percent in the United States.

The profiles are based on information from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, America InfoNet and the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training.

The Research and Statistics Branch provides information on all occupations in other locations on the Web site and in various publications. Click on "Career Center" on the home page of the Workforce Kentucky site at www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov to access career profiles.

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Florence Memorial Day ceremony

On May 29, Mike Fry, Tom Schweinzger, and Ken Wochoer of the Covington One-Stop Veterans Program participated in Florence's Memorial Day ceremonies. They displayed information on 12 individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH) and had a connection to Northern Kentucky.



Covington's One-Stop Veterans staff displayed names of 12 Medal of Honor recipients during Florence's Memorial Day ceremonies in May.

One of the youngest recipients of the MOH was 15-year-old William H. Horsfall of Campbell County for service during the Civil War. The last recipient of the award from Northern Kentucky was Sgt. Charles C. Fleek of Petersburg for service during the Vietnam War.

In addition to the display, Fry, Schweinzger and Wochoer had the honor of raising the MIA/POW flag during a silent ceremony involving the Boone County Police Honor Guard, Florence Police Honor Guard, Northern Kentucky OET Veterans Program, and the Florence Rotary.

After the flags were raised, more than 50 veterans were introduced with many of the veterans having served in WWII and Korea. The youngest vet to be introduced had just returned from Iraq and the oldest vet served with the 82nd Airborne during WWII.

During the ceremony the names were read of veterans who had died during the past year. The ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute courtesy of the Marine Color Guard.

Work Readiness class participant credits program for landing job

When Jason Mathews' social worker required him to attend an OET Work Readiness Class in Louisville, he confesses he had a "closed mind" and a "I know more than these people attitude." Now he readily acknowledges that the information he gained in the class helped him land him a job that four months of searching the Internet on his own couldn't get him.

Mathews wrote in a thank you letter to his Work Readiness Instructor Bonnie Cole, Louisville OET, "At first the class didn't offer me much but as the days pressed on, I closed my mouth and opened my mind to the possibilities. There I learned that while my resume was generally good, it needed polish, and my search technique was lazy and unproductive. I had to face the hard truth about myself and put the arrogance in its place. I had to really ask myself, 'Jason, do you really want a job, or do you want to fall deeper into this pit of despair?' I immediately knew the answer and I began to take the teachings very seriously."

As the four-week course continued, Mathews grew to respect Cole and the class but he had doubts about a particular job search tool that summarizes your resume called JIST cards. "Now when I first saw them my initial impression was, 'Oh my Lord, this can't really work? This has to be a marketing ploy.'"

Since his job search methods had not been productive and because he respected Cole, Mathews decided to give the JIST cards a chance. To his surprise, the JIST cards and other tools he had picked up in the Work Readiness Class paid off just a few weeks later.

When that class ended, Mathews moved on to the OET Job Seekers Class at the OET office. When an employer needed the room his class was using to conduct interviews, Mathews took the opportunity to make a contact and use his job search tools. He said he remembered from class that walk-ins are a primary source of employment. He approached the employer representative and asked her about the

See Page 6 – Work Readiness class participant

Two employers recognized for employment of veterans

East Kentucky Power and Hopkins County Coal, LLC, were recently presented with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Employer of the Year award in large and small employer categories, respectively. East Kentucky Power was recommended for the award by the Winchester OET and Hopkins County Coal by the Madisonville OET.

Rick Netherton, Department of Labor director for Veterans Employment and Training in Kentucky, recognized the companies during the VFW's annual convention for their efforts and support of the employment of veterans.



Winners of the VFW National Employer of the Year award are pictured after being recognized for their work with employment of veterans. Left to right, Jason Slone, manager, Winchester OET; Doug Oliver, H.R. manager, East Kentucky Power; James Griffith, local veteran employee representative (LVER); Casie Richardson, LVER; Ben Spears, H.R. manager, Hopkins County Coal; and Debbie Howard, manager, Madisonville OET.

East Kentucky Power was recognized for their policies and achievements in hiring veterans. The company employs just over 600 people. Of those, 99 are veterans.

Hopkins County Coal is committed to giving preference to veterans and supporting the military in its local community events and area job fairs.

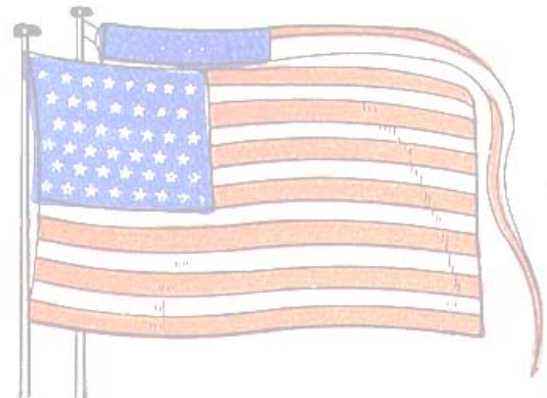
Bowling Green Career Center sends care packages to U.S. military

The OET veteran staff of the Bowling Green Career Center, through the web site www.anysoldier.com, is providing two care packages a month to U.S. military in Iraq.

In the six months that the office has been sending packages, more than \$370 of treats and necessities have been sent.



OET's John Riley, sitting left center, local veterans employment representative, and Gerald Neely, sitting right, disabled veterans opportunity program, display two care packages to be sent to military forces in Iraq. Also seated is Earl Kilbourne. Standing, left to right, are Angela Cowles, LaVonnia McKee, Ray Lanham, Pam McKinney, Sherrell Norris, Helen Kereiakes, Patty Sue Sutherland, Carter Parker and Glenda Johnson.



Department of Kentucky, DAV recognizes services to veterans

In June, Richard Plouffe and Larry Oberlitner were recognized by the Department of Kentucky, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) for their services to veterans and their families. Plouffe works for OET at Louisville's Preston Highway office and Oberlitner in Elizabethtown.

Commander Larry Roberts with DAV and Department of Labor Director Rick Netherton with the Veterans Employment and Training in Kentucky presented the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) of the year award to Plouffe and the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) award for 2006 to Oberlitner.



Richard Plouffe, left, and Larry Oberlitner are presented the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veteran Employment Representative (LVER) of the year awards, respectively, by the Kentucky Department of DAV during its annual convention in Louisville.

An example of Plouffe's work was a veteran who possessed carpentry skills. Plouffe made the necessary assessments, case managed and assisted him in obtaining his driver's license, tools for his trade, transportation, shelter, food and clothing needs. He assisted him at the public library where he was able to acquire necessary data to assist in his job search. The veteran is now employed

at the rate of \$18.75 per hour, is no longer homeless and is self sufficient.

Oberlitner works as a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Instructor on the Fort Knox base. Through TAP, Oberlitner instructs newly separating military members on marketing the skills they have obtained through their military service. He walks the veteran through a job search process and provides each participant methodical preparation for a successful job search. Oberlitner also assists the transitioning veteran in determining what they want to do after the military. Since 1992, Oberlitner has instructed over 14,000 participants.

Paducah Career Expo billed as the place to learn

The Paducah Career Center Business Services Team held a Career Expo on June 5 that targeted Western Kentucky.

Job seekers were invited whether they were looking for a better job, re-entering the workforce or were just starting their career. They met with employers and were interviewed on site. The Expo was billed as a place to learn about new careers, high-demand occupations and training opportunities.

Scheduled events included: Hiring Manager Panel Discussion, What does Your Resume Say About You, Workplace Manners, and Dress for Success Style Show. Planners set-up approximately 25 chairs for each of these events but had to bring in more.

According to Gina Triplett, Paducah OET manager, one of the busiest sections was the resource/resume computer room. Ten laptops and several one-on-one specialists were available to assist the job seekers.

Forty-one employers and over 400 job seekers participated.

Madisonville OET and Small Business Administration hold seminar

On May 12, the Madisonville OET field office held a joint seminar with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) on "Starting or Maintaining a Business." The seminar targeted veterans but anyone could attend.

Highlights included where to get funding, business plans and marketing ideas. Twenty participants heard how to succeed with a business venture.

In addition to the SBA, the agenda included speakers from Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Fifth/Third Bank, Murray State University, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA), the Pennyryle Area Development District and Elements of Play (small business speaker).

Brown to serve second term with IPMA-HR



W. Maurice Brown, formerly with the Budget and Support Branch of OET, was recently re-elected vice president of the Ky. Chapter of International Public Managers Association – Human Resources' (IPMA – HR) Board of Directors for the 2006-07 year.

IPMA-HR is an organization within state government for managers and those aspiring to be managers in human resources and similar positions. Brown served in the capacity of vice president for the 2003-04 term and had the highest recruitment rating overall.

OET judge finds challenge, talent at speaking competition

OET's Pat Dudgeon was invited to judge the public speaking competition as part of the Jobs for Kentucky's Graduates (JKG) Career Development Conference recently held in Lexington.

Dudgeon, one of three judges, found the responsibility to be a challenge because of the many impressive presentations. In many cases, participants articulated the theme "JKG: Finding the Hero in You!" by sharing their experiences of overcoming obstacles in their lives.

Dudgeon stayed for the awards and closing ceremonies and was glad she did. She said, "I was amazed at the enthusiasm, respect and support the students displayed as awards were given. One thing that really struck me was how supportive the teams were of each other. Twelfth place received nearly as much applause as first."

There were over 400 students in attendance but Dudgeon observed, "The audience was also respectful and attentive, even though it was the end of the day and the bus motors were humming outside."

OET provided funds for Program Year 2005-06 to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to administer Workforce Investment Act Governor's Discretionary funds to 30 school sites and approximately 500 students through the JKG program. Dave Clusky with KDE, is in charge of the program.

JKG is a dropout-prevention, school-based program for disadvantaged and at-risk youth and is committed to helping students attain a high school diploma and/or a postsecondary education or training leading to a career.

JKG is an affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) that operates in 27 states and the United Kingdom.

Work Readiness class participant (continued)

company. They began talking and he handed her a resume, contact sheet, and a JIST card. Mathews said, "Her face immediately lit up and she asked what the JIST card was, in fact she had never seen one! I explained that it was a resume summary and it has all my best qualities and the reasons why I'd make an excellent addition to their team. She read the JIST card first, then she looked over my resume! After, she went back to the JIST card and then scheduled me for a phone interview the following week."

After several interviews and three additional tests, he accepted a full-time position as a Toshiba laptop repair technician with the company. Mathews said, "This isn't just a job either, as an Information Technology professional, this is a step towards my professional development and is well within my career field!"

Mathews also had some advice for future Work Readiness program participants. "If you want to end the cycle of despair and poverty, then you need to come to a place within yourself where you say, 'I have had enough of this.' When you reach that place, it is time to close your mouth and open your ears and minds and go and get what you need to be successful not only for yourself but for your children as well. If this means attending night classes for your GED, or signing up at the local college and getting your degree, then do it!" he said.

The OET Work/Job Readiness Class is designed to teach Kentucky Works Program participants effective interviewing skills and successful job search methods. The daily sessions prepare participants for work or work-related activities and help them become marketable as an employee. These classes are tailored for participants lacking work history, participants that are not familiar with general workplace expectations, and/or participants with barriers that may hinder them from finding, obtaining, or retaining employment.

For more information about the classes, contact Paulette Jones, program coordinator, by phone at (502) 564-7456.

Madisonville OET Gives Job Ready Tune Up

In June, the Madisonville OET participated in a community job readiness event called Job Ready Tune Up. The event provided information in the areas of application procedures, resume assistance, career choices, mock interviews and dressing for success.

The highlight of this event was three employer panels that explained in detail how employers select new applicants. Each panel consisted of four or more employers that allowed the audience to ask direct questions about getting a job.

This project was made possible through a grant from the West Kentucky Workforce Investment Board.



During Madisonville's Job Ready Tune Up, a four-member panel answers questions from the audience regarding tips for getting hired.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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